

April/May 2020

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TXCPA Houston

## *A Foundation of Growth*

**Responding to COVID-19  
and the New Normal**

Continuing  
Education

**Why TXCPA Houston?  
A Letter from President -  
Elect Darrell Groves**

Networking

**TXCPA Houston  
Scholarship Extravaganza**

Protecting and  
Promoting the  
Profession

**Profiles in Student Life:  
An Interview with Nhu Le**

Career  
Development

**TXCPA Houston is Here  
for the Members**

Student  
Auxiliary

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# Message

## from the desk of \_\_\_\_\_



**Ramsey Womack, CPA**  
*President*

We have entered an unprecedented time, both personally and professionally. While many of us adjust to a new normal of teleconferences and dining tables-turned-offices, we are facing many market disruptions. TXCPA Houston is taking the coronavirus very seriously, and we are continuously monitoring its impact on our members, staff, students, and the profession.

The staff at TXCPA Houston is continuing to work remotely to serve the members and plan our upcoming events. Many of the in-person meetings and events have been transitioned to conference call formats. We have initiated plans to postpone the Scholarship Extravaganza until later in 2020. Financial Reporting Symposium that was originally scheduled for May 14 will be held at the end of July 2020. Spring Accounting Expo will be held but as a webcast. The dates of the webcast are being decided but will be before May 31, 2020. Please stay tuned to our website for exciting information on these events.

While some of the counties in our area have entered some form of "shelter in place order," we continue to monitor and work with local officials to ensure that accounting is considered an essential business. The Harris County order includes "professional services, such as legal and accounting services, as an essential business when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities or to further Essential Business, Essential Government Functions or Critical Infrastructure."

TXCPA Houston will continue to monitor the rapidly changing situation and will keep you posted in your member communications. Thank you for trusting us as a resource and thank you for your membership!



## from the desk of \_\_\_\_\_

**Kristie Ondracek, CPA, CGMA**  
*Acting Executive Director*

As I write this letter, we are in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic of which we, as a nation and world has never experienced, at least in living memory. This is causing most of us to change our daily routines including: working from home, hosting virtual meetings and limiting our exposure to the outside world except for essential errands. We are all learning to use new technology and resources to adapt these daily routines for the "new normal." The staff at TXCPA Houston is working remotely to continue to fully serve our members. In a strange case of coincidence, in January we went 100% to cloud-based servers and computing. In mid-February, TXCPA Houston upgraded our phone system. These technology changes have enabled us to work remotely and have the ability to provide excellent membership service. At that time, we never would have thought it would come to be such an asset and necessity, so quickly!

We know that each of you are dealing with adapting your routines and working out a plan to complete tasks, meet deadlines, and address your clients' needs. Now, the government is having daily press conferences to attempt to keep us informed, while also issuing executive orders to keep us safe and healthy. We realize these orders are not easy to adapt to; they cause disruption to our personal and business life; raising stress to an even higher than normal levels, and of course, this is happening during the middle of "busy season." Be assured that TXCPA and TXCPA Houston are continuously monitoring the situation, advocating to protect our profession and providing information to you in a timely manner. We understand that many of our members feel unsettled and we want you to know we'll continue to be here for you. As acting executive director, this is one of the greatest benefits I can advocate for being a member of TXCPA and TXCPA Houston – we will always be here to promote for the best interests of our members.

Throughout this "new normal," I hope you are able to take advantage of the complimentary CPE webcasts TXCPA is providing to members. TXCPA has also advocated on the behalf of members to include professional accounting services among essential services and extend franchise tax deadline. These benefits were shared through emails from TXCPA, TXCPA Houston, social media and on our respective websites.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Forum magazine and we are looking forward to seeing you in person in the near future. Please check our website frequently for information regarding upcoming events and to register for member conferences and seminars.

# TXCPA HOUSTON

## TXCPA Houston

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# Contents

## Responding to COVID-19 and the "New Normal"

By Michael J. Barber

Learn how TXCPA and TXCPA Houston are supporting our members throughout the COVID-19 "Stay Home. Work Safe" orders and responding to your needs.

5

## Why TXCPA Houston?

By Darrell Groves, CPA, CFE, CGMA

Darrell Groves answers the leading question of "Why TXCPA Houston?" as he reflects on his 30-year journey with TXCPA. He is humbled and honored for the opportunity to lead such a historic organization into the future.

7

## TXCPA Houston Scholarship Extravaganza

By Phillip Arvanetakis, CPA

As an accounting student, Philip Arvanetakis, received a TXCPA Houston scholarship as a result of the Scholarship Extravaganza. The scholarship funds allowed him to focus on his studies and alleviate the burden of student loans.

9

## TXCPA Houston is Here for the Members

By Carol Spencer

TXCPA Houston continues to serve members as the chapter staff has done since the 1940s. In our new social-distancing lifestyle, remember that you are not alone.

11

## Profiles in Student Life: Nhu Le

By Michael J. Barber

Nhu Le, president of the Student Auxiliary, shares how TXCPA Houston is helping her prepare for her accounting career. Learn how Nhu juggles her college courses, CPA exam studies, and Doeren Mayhew internship.

13

## Chapter News

Learn what's happening in the chapter including CPAs Helping Schools, our 2020 conference schedule, online CPE offerings, and more!

17

Front Cover Image: Pixabay.com, GeraIt



# Responding to COVID-19 and the “New Normal”

By Michael J. Barber

Anyone who has watched the news, engaged in social media, talked to another person, or has tried to go to a store lately knows that the Houston region is being profoundly affected by the effects of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This devastating pandemic-causing virus has been leaving businesses shuttered and schools closed. Many people are having to adapt to becoming simultaneously a stay-at-home parent, remote worker, and for some, a home schooling teacher. This has led businesses to continue operations via remote working environments, employees to master videoconferencing and virtual meetings, as well as, stressing the limits of their home-based servers and bandwidth.

Likewise, the TXCPA Houston office is working remotely from home, learning to adapt to new technologies, and hosting virtual meetings. All this being said, TXCPA Houston remains fully open for business... just differently. Though the doors to our physical offices are, and will remain, closed throughout the current health-related crisis, we are remaining “open” daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., just as we would be on any other working day. If you call our phones or send us an email, we will be there to answer your questions. If you have a conference call or a committee meeting, it will be hosted virtually for the foreseeable future.

As many businesses have done, earlier this year, TXCPA Houston moved from physical servers to cloud-based servers. We also upgraded our phone systems to a virtual communication system. These two changes have enabled us to serve our members without any interruption to our operations. When we implemented these technology upgrades, we were preparing for hurricane season, not a pandemic-causing virus!

As your local source of continuing education, TXCPA has been quick to gather current virtual learning sources so our members can still be able to meet their continuing education hours along with providing relevant content regarding COVID-19 and its impact on individuals, businesses and our members.

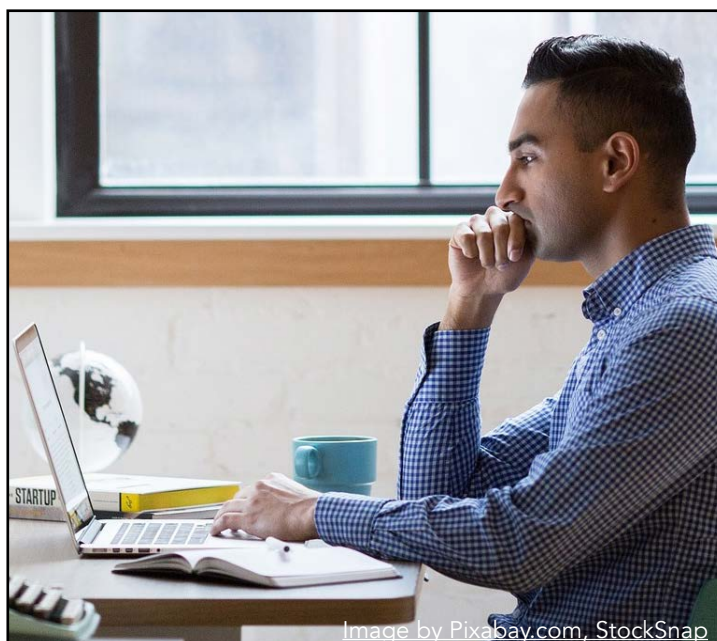


Image by Pixabay.com, StockSnap

Please visit [tscpa.org](https://tscpa.org) or [houstoncpa.org](https://houstoncpa.org) for the current virtual learning options.

In addition, we are continuing to research alternative virtual solutions for postponed or canceled events and potentially rescheduled conferences. While we hope that the world will return to what we think of as normalcy soon, we want to ensure our members that we are continually adapting our means and methods of providing all services to our members.

Ultimately, we are and will remain here for our members and will continue to do so throughout this current crisis, today, tomorrow and beyond.

To contact any of our staff members, please feel free to reach directly out to us at:

Glenda Salter - Receptionist, 713-622-7733

Kristie Ondracek - Acting Executive Director, 832-831-9229

Carol Spencer - Membership Manager, 832-831-9232

Michael Barber - CPE Coordinator, 832-831-9222

Michelle Carr - Marketing, 832-831-9220

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Michael J. Barber is a former school administrator and classroom educator. After spending over two decades in public and private education, Michael has migrated to the continuing professional education coordinator at TXCPA Houston.

# Why TXCPA Houston?

By Darrell Groves, CPA, CFE, CGMA



**A**fter passing the CPA exam in May 1989, I started my career as an auditor in the Houston office of what is now known as KPMG. I had spent four summers interning with the firm, with the first two spent supporting administrative functions such as the firm library, file room, print shop, and report proofing departments and the last two as an audit intern. During my time with the firm, I quickly noticed that in addition to displaying their college degrees and CPA licenses, most of the managers and partners prominently exhibited their certificate of membership in two organizations – the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TXCPA). It was clear to me that membership in these organizations would provide further proof that I had “arrived” as a CPA.

Although it would be nearly two years before I completed the state-mandated work experience hours to get my license, I officially joined TXCPA in June 1990. As I was living in Houston at the time, I automatically became a member of the Houston chapter. It was a proud moment, but as a young auditor, I had yet to earn a manager-level office wall for which to display my newfound credentials.

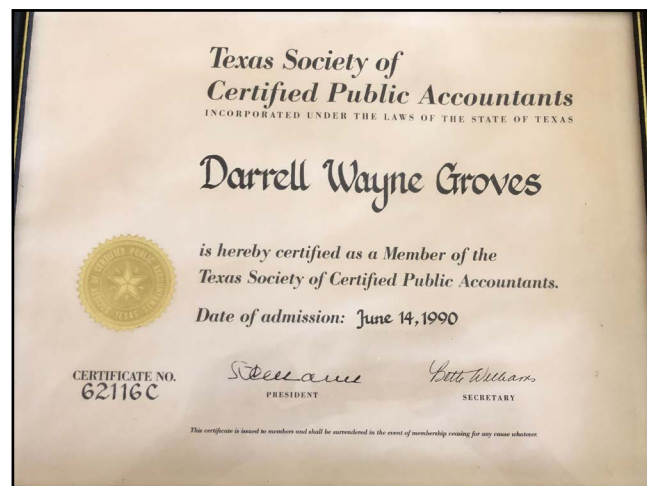
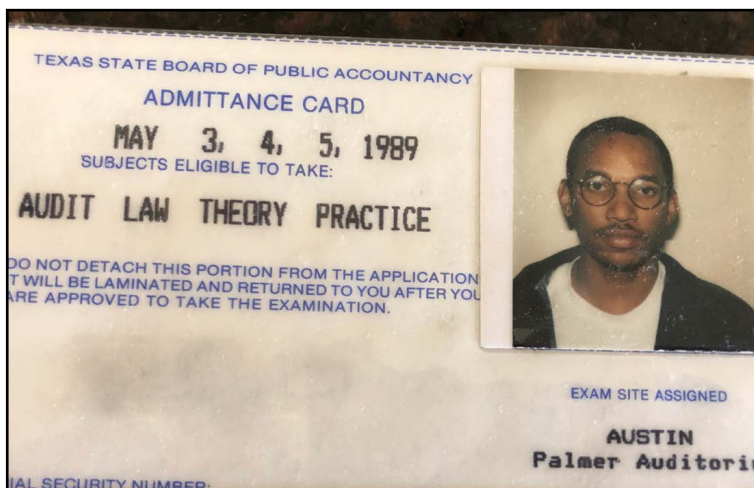
I left the firm soon after getting licensed to start a practice in Austin that my wife and I operated for about 5 years. As KPMG reimbursed the cost of my dues during my employment there, my membership lapsed after I left the firm. My family and I moved back to Houston in 1995, and I returned to full-time employment elsewhere. I rejoined TXCPA in 1996 as my employers from that time through 2011 reimbursed the cost of my membership to this organization that I valued. When I fully launched my practice in Houston in 2012, the value that I placed on my TXCPA membership would again be tested. As my budget permitted, in 2012, I decided to renew under the self-imposed condition that I would get more involved in the Houston chapter. Although I have since learned that my initial lack of involvement is not uncommon, I was not satisfied that I had not participated in many activities of TXCPA or the Houston chapter since I first joined in 1990. I valued membership enough to ask my employers to pay for it for 20 plus years but was not sure about spending my own money. I needed to see if it was truly worth it.

My first step was to visit the TXCPA Houston website in August 2012 to see which committees I might be interested in. The two committees that I found most appealing at the time were the Community Services Committee (then chaired by the current president, Ramsey Womack) and the Diversity Committee. Surprisingly for me, I was asked to chair the Diversity committee the following year (2013), and in subsequent years I was nominated to join the TXCPA Board of Directors (2014) and the TXCPA Houston Board (2015). In addition to the first two committees that I joined, I have served locally on the Relations with Taxing Authorities, Investments, Membership Development, PAC Steering, Personnel, Public Affairs, Strategic Planning, and Tax Expo committees. At the state level, I have served on the Practice Issues, Relations with IRS and Diversity and Inclusion committees. In June 2020, I will take on the role of Board President of TXCPA Houston.

I have met many new friends since taking that first fateful step of becoming an active member 8 years ago. As a small firm owner, I have clearly benefited from developing peer connections that I promote to my clients. It is assuring to know that if I do not have a solution, I can reach out to one of several thousand colleagues that I am connected to locally and across the state through TXCPA. I regret not engaging as an active member sooner. Particularly when I worked for KPMG, as it would have afforded me the opportunity to connect with peers that were outside the firm. Perhaps that would have extended my stay by offering a broader base of professional activities and interactions.

through friendly cooperation." TXCPA Houston is the largest chapter in the state of Texas and in the country serving 7,400 members in our 13-county area. The chapter is larger than 42 state societies and is served by a 7-person staff, 25-person Board of Directors and over 20 different committees.

When I reflect on my 30-year journey with TXCPA, I am humbled and honored for the opportunity to lead such a historic organization into the future. To answer the leading question of "Why TXCPA Houston," I simply answer, "Why not TXCPA Houston?"



There are certainly other accounting-related professional associations that I have been a part of over the years for which my connections are broadened and expanded. However, there is only one professional association of CPAs in Texas that was formed nearly 100 years ago at the Houston Club with the express purpose to "promote fellowship among accountants in Houston and advancement of the profession



Darrell Groves, CPA, CFE, CGMA. Darrell has been providing accounting services for over 30 years. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from The University of Texas at Austin in 1989 and has been licensed as a CPA since 1991.

# BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Visit [www.tscpa.org/membership/become-a-member](http://www.tscpa.org/membership/become-a-member)

**JOIN TODAY**



# TXCPA Houston Scholarship Extravaganza

By Phillip Arvanetakis, CPA



Laptop? Check. Headset? Check. Coffee? Cold. I rush into the small breakout room, push the door closed with one leg and dump the things I'm carrying onto the table in one sweeping motion that I'm all but familiar with.

I'm Phillip Arvanetakis, a member of TXCPA Houston, a University of Houston alumnus, and still adjusting to the work from home lifestyle. Like you, I am different things to different people: a son, brother, friend, coworker, mentee, mentor. It's not easy, but it's rewarding. I believe there's a reason for this inverse relationship.

It's 9 a.m. and I'm nearly late for my virtual "coffee chat" with a prospective recruit. Like some of my coworkers, I volunteer to participate in video chats with students to develop a relationship, answer their questions, and share my experiences.

The student is already tuned in and ready to go. "Can you hear me?..." Silence. Some tinkering with my settings and the audio is now working. The coffee-less chat lasted 30 minutes and went well; introductions were had, questions were answered to the best of my abilities, and I made myself available for follow up. I managed to briefly discuss my involvement with TXCPA Houston along with some of my hobbies. In a similar fashion, I scooped up my belongings,

made my way through the door, and was onto my next meeting.

As a member of TXCPA Houston, I owe it to those who came before me and those who stand beside me to ensure our current and future members are put in a position to grow within our community, seize opportunities, and succeed. This often comes in one of two forms: a contribution of time or of money; networking and mentoring; funding scholarships and hosting member events. These same contributions I make are the ones I received as a student, learning about career opportunities and TXCPA Houston's offerings (and there are many).

The scholarship I received as a result of the Scholarship Extravaganza aided me in many ways. It alleviated the burden of my student loans, allowed me to focus more on my studies, but most interestingly, it showed me TXCPA Houston's care for its members. As a member, I strive to be actively involved in TXCPA Houston, attend events, and serve as a mentor to demonstrate my appreciation for what others have done for me. Speaking as a former student and current professional, I am thankful for all of you who continue to provide for students and contribute to the Scholarship Extravaganza. And now more than ever, the students need us.

In the span of a month, COVID-19 has devastated the economy, our families, and our livelihoods. The effects will be felt for time to come. In times of crisis, the impact of our actions is amplified. What better time is there to answer this call than when people need it the most, when we are all in difficult situations? I've seen this in the Houston restaurant and bar scene: average people, with their own struggles, helping to support the thousands of workers whose plight is on prominent display.

For those who are able to help our students, I ask you to consider the impact your contributions have on not only them, but on whom they interact with; their friends who ask "what is TXCPA Houston?"; their families who are just as, if not more, grateful for your help; and their future mentees who inquire about accounting and what TXCPA Houston means to them.

I've experienced the second and third order effects of caring for our students. I've spoken with freshmen and sophomores who are now graduates in my shoes! They're mentoring

students, introducing them to TXCPA Houston, our committees, and what we can offer. Your contributions, whether they seem significant or not, are meaningful to the students who receive them. The scholarships you fund could be the difference in someone's decision to become a lifelong member.

I ask that you contemplate a few questions: why did you join TXCPA Houston; why are you still a part of TXCPA Houston; and why would someone want to be a part of TXCPA Houston? While these questions go beyond the scope of funding scholarships, I hope they help you identify solutions you can act on. For now, I'll continue to do my part: helping our students through college, and honing my video chat skills, one meeting at a time.



Phillip Arvanetakis, CPA, is a senior associate at PwC. He is an active member of TXCPA Houston and serves on various committees which provides him with the opportunity to have an impact on the accounting profession, professionals, and students.

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# Thank You to our 2020 Scholarship Extravaganza Supporters

## **Magna Cum Laude** \$10,000

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## **Cum Laude** \$5,000

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Frierson Sola Simonton & Kutac PLLC  
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WG Consulting

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## **Chancellor's List** \$2,500

BKD CPAs and Advisors  
Lee & Desenberg, PLLC  
Fred and Mabel Parks Foundation  
Gail Neely/Dell Inc.

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## **Dean's List** \$1,000

Tom and Nancy Bewley, Blomstrom Financial Services, David Donnelly,  
DWG CPA PLLC, Jeff and Aletha Harris, Horn Solutions Inc.,  
William H. Hornberger, Kelly Hunter, Mohan Kuruvilla,  
LaPorte CPAs and Business Advisors, Mark and Alice Lee,  
Gunther von Gynz-Rekowski, Ramsey and Robin Womack

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## **Program Supporter** \$500

Bill and Jean Frazer, Frierson Sola Simonton & Kutac PLLC,  
Charlotte Jungen, Mosbacher Energy Company

If you wish to make a donation towards accounting scholarships and CPAs Helping Schools, please email [foundation@houstoncpa.org](mailto:foundation@houstoncpa.org).

# TXCPA Houston is Here for the Members

By Carol Spencer



**I**t's 2020 and today, most of us are working from home or living in self-quarantine to avoid the current threat of the coronavirus disease and help to save our family and fellow citizens of the potential for illness.

The Houston CPA Society (TXCPA Houston) was founded on May 22, 1928, in downtown Houston. Local accounting professionals frequently met and wanted to create a formal body to discuss the daily issues of the profession, while offering a social atmosphere. We know who those founding fathers were, but little records exist for the next 13 years. Our first formal president is listed as Ralph W. Peters in 1944-45.

The chapter's forefathers and leaders have helped us to continue serving the local accounting professionals. During these 92 years, our leaders have been faced with many national and global crises including World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, OPEC oil embargo, Iran-Contra Affair, The Gulf War, and financial recessions. In recent history, we all remember Y2K concerns that were quickly overshadowed by tragic terrorist attacks in 2001 and locally, the fall of Enron, which changed the accounting profession forever.

These were primarily wars – created by people of different nations, backgrounds, religions, and beliefs. Today's enemy is not one we can attack as we've grown accustomed to fighting. The novel coronavirus is a pathogen that all our brothers and sisters around our planet are facing in 2020. While scientists look for possible cures and vaccines, each of us must take the initiative for self-preservation – both for ourselves, our family, and all mankind.

Perhaps seventeenth-century English author John Donne said it best:

## **'No Man is an Island'**

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

## **MEDITATION XVII**

Devotions upon Emergent Occasions  
John Donne

In our new social distancing lifestyle, remember that you are not alone. The staff, leaders, and your fellow members of TXCPA Houston are here for you. When you're feeling down, reach out through the TXCPA Exchange at <https://exchange.tscpa.org> or contact ACAN for additional emotional support at 866-766-2226. You can find the contacts of our staff members and current chapter leadership at [www.houstoncpa.org](http://www.houstoncpa.org). Also, follow us on social media to get the most up-to-date information for CPE, events, and resources we have compiled to have as a one-stop place. We are a community and here for one another.

As we near our 92nd birthday, we continue to serve you, as the chapter staff has done since the

1940s. We look forward to the day that we can host in-person events to provide the social element that was important to our founding fathers. In the meantime, we are available from our remote locations to serve your needs.

You are welcome to contact me by email at [cspencer@houstoncpa.org](mailto:cspencer@houstoncpa.org) or by phone, 832-831-9232. Quick question? Text 832-622-6377.



Carol Spencer is the membership manager at TXCPA Houston.

## Become a Member

Join us and be a part of the largest, most influential association of accounting and finance professionals in Texas.



"I became a member because another member cared enough for me to grab me by the arm and say 'come with me.' It didn't take long for me to recognize this association as the voice and advocate for a profession I worked hard to be a part of and a profession I want to ensure continues to thrive well into the future. The CPA license has been vital to my career success, and I'm grateful TXCPA has been protecting and supporting our profession every step of the way."

- Stephen Parker, CPA

- Free on-demand ethics CPE to help you meet your licensing requirements
- Advocacy for your license and your profession with state and national entities
- Access to TXCPA Exchange, an exclusive members-only online forum for questions and knowledge sharing
- Membership in one of 20 chapters providing local networking and service opportunities
- Access to an online searchable member directory of our 28,000 members
- Deep discounts on live and online CPE, including subscription packages like the TXCPA Passport with over 160 hours of credit included
- Member communications keeping you up to date on critical professional issues
- Savings on job postings and a free job seeker profile on the TXCPA Career Center
- Leadership training opportunities with chapter and state-level volunteer opportunities
- Discounts on services and insurance packages by leveraging the buying power of 28,000
- Group renewal opportunities and benefits for multiple members within one organization

"My membership has expanded my professional network exponentially. I've had the opportunity to be involved at the local, state and national levels, giving me unique and unmatched professional development opportunities"

- Sheila A. Enriquez, CPA, JD, CFF, CVA



"We are part of an ever-changing profession, which creates a need for continuous learning. Some of the most valuable benefits of my membership are access to a portfolio of educational opportunities - live and virtual - and a connection to CPAs across the state who generously support each other and share advice, experiences and expertise."

- Ben Simiskey, CPA/PFS, CFP®

Join today at <https://www.tscpa.org/membership/become-a-member!>



# Profiles in Student Life

By Michael J. Barber

**Name:** Nhu Le

**University:** University of Houston  
(Main Campus) – Bauer College of Business

**Current Year:** Senior

**Internship:** Doeren Mayhew – Audit Group

Student outreach and engagement are important aspects of the mission of TXCPA and the individual chapters. Benefits to the student include being better positioned for greater individual professional success, networking with professionals from within the very same profession to which they aspire to join and mentorship from those within their field of interest. The organization also receives a great benefit of cultivating our future pipeline. Within the Student Auxiliary you will find future members who will continue the growth and expansion of the field of professionals, future leaders grown from within the organization, and a future network of young professionals who, as their own careers flourish, will provide the next generation with that all important network of contacts, mentors, and guiding lights. We caught up with (virtually – of course!) Nhu Le, a senior at the University of Houston, Bauer College of Business. As a senior, she is not only prepping for the completion of her studies, the beginning of her career, and studying for the CPA exam, she is also serving an internship in the Audit Group of Doeren Mayhew, a member of TXCPA Houston and is serving as the president of the Student Auxiliary.

Nhu has been a member of TXCPA Houston for two years. She became involved in the organization after a LinkedIn connection shared that she was acting as a panelist at a TXCPA event on cybersecurity. Nhu said that attending this first chapter event was different from other accounting events she had attended on campus. She saw that TXCPA was an opportunity to learn directly from professionals about the diverse



**"I saw TXCPA as a great opportunity for students to network and gain information about the accounting profession..." - Nhu Le**

fields of accounting and their experiences. From this experience, she realized she would be able to learn about both the opportunities and challenges faced by others as they attempted to break into their chosen field and how she could be better situated to set herself up for success in her own career.

And so, Nhu began her journey with TXCPA Houston. She has had the opportunity to attend multiple events and meet outstanding professionals from the accounting world. Thus far, Nhu stated that her favorite events were the "Awards Dinner," where she was honored to have met Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, and the "Scholarship Extravaganza," where she volunteered to help raise funds for Houston area students. As she became more involved with

TXCPA Houston and the Student Auxiliary, Nhu applied to be an officer for the Student Auxiliary. She hoped to use this platform to get more students to know about TXCPA Houston and get those students engaged in all the opportunities TXCPA Houston has to offer.

Now, Nhu is serving as the president of the Student Auxiliary group of TXCPA Houston. She informs her fellow accounting majors of the Student Auxiliary networking events, volunteer opportunities, and learning experiences, especially those that are not found in the university classroom environment. This is free to accounting students! So why would they not want to take advantage of this great opportunity?

Nhu also believes that as the effect of technology on the accounting profession evolves, so will the role of TXCPA and other similar professional associations. Professional associations will need to change and re-invent their role, events and methods of professional delivery specifically as technology platforms grow and distance learning becomes a norm.

### About Nhu Le

Nhu made the difficult and life changing decision to move to the United States for university. Nhu came half-way around the world on her own facing several challenges such as language and cultural barriers and adjusting to an entirely new way of life. Upon her arrival, Nhu had three goals in mind: to work hard, to find her success, and to overcome these challenges. Working to advance her education and preparing for her future career, Nhu had to force herself out her comfort zone through participation in student organizations. This involvement allowed her the ability to improve her abilities in communication both linguistically and culturally, create meaningful and lasting friendships, and create a network

of essential contacts. In her own words Nhu says: "Looking back to that time, I realized how those challenges have helped me grow into a better version of myself and develop a sense of independence and adaptability." Nhu credits her upbringing and the lessons learned from her parents and family as her central influence in making this decision to come to a new country and culture for her education. Her family has always emphasized the importance of a great education and have themselves worked to provide her the opportunity to be a 1st generation collegiate graduate in the family. She states that their "tireless work ethic, determination and compassion" has been a leading motivator for her own success and professional development.

In talking with Nhu about the barriers she's faced, and the solutions that she's found, a few themes emerged: opportunity and the seizure of your opportunities, mentorship and involvement in professional organizations.

During her first semester at Bauer (University of Houston – C.T. Bauer College of Business), Nhu went to a career fair and

quickly realized that she was not ready for the competitiveness of the professional recruiting process. Working to improve and differentiate herself from the pack, Nhu applied for and was accepted into the "Program for Excellence in Selling" at Bauer, one of the nation's leading sales programs, which academically prepares its students for careers in sales, facilitating internships, and provides advisement for career placement. Through this program, Nhu received 18 credit hours (approximately 270 "real world" hours) of live sales training, building a per brand, customer relationship management, overcoming objections, and how to "sell oneself." Being among the top 20 students in her class selected to manage corporate partnerships, her goal for the program was to land an internship. A goal where her diligence and dedicated work ethic paid off: "I am very happy to say that





these experiences helped me achieve my goal of obtaining an internship." (Nhu Le)

Nhu is clearly a motivated individual, both personally and professionally, from her family upbringing to her desire to inspire and motivate others. She counts herself lucky to have had the opportunity to work as an academic assistant at Bauer and as a volunteer to teach elementary students. Her goal is to constantly develop and advance her professional career while allowing time to donate her talents. Nhu gives back to others through coaching, teaching, and mentoring, as others have done for her. In her own words: "Throughout my life, I have had the privilege to meet and learn from many wonderful people. I am thankful to be able to call these three individuals my mentors." (Nhu Le)

### **She counts among those mentors:**

Amy Vandaveer, professor at University of Houston, who was her first professor at Bauer, and for whom she was fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to work for as an academic assistant. From Ms. Vandaveer, Nhu learned to follow her personal values and to be assertive about following her passions.

Chris Masters, managing shareholder at Doeren Mayhew who Nhu met throughout her recruiting process. She learned about both his career and a new perspective of the accounting field. Nhu credits his advice and guidance for earning her internship at Doeren Mayhew.

Megan Iselin, senior associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers whom Nhu met through TXCPA Houston when Megan was a member of the Steering Committee and now Megan chairs. Nhu credits Megan with giving "me continuous support regarding leadership and how to transition from college to the corporate world." This is something Nhu hopes to mentor others through as they transition to the professional world.

### **A Message to Other Students:**

As president of the Student Auxiliary of TXCPA Houston, Nhu notes that her role has given her the chance to practice and improve her public speaking skills. In this leadership role, she can

# **TXCPA HOUSTON**

## **STUDENT AUXILIARY**



The TXCPA Houston Student Auxiliary provides career training, career path options and information, networking and hiring opportunities for students in the Houston area interested in accounting.

### **REASONS TO JOIN TXCPA HOUSTON:**

- Networking with Houston's most prominent CPAs
- Getting involved with your future profession
- TXCPA Houston gives scholarships every year
- You can join at [TSCPA.org](https://www.tscpa.org) for just \$35, or apply for free membership at Student Auxiliary events

For more information: call 713.622.7733 or  
[email\\_students@houstoncpa.org](mailto:email_students@houstoncpa.org).

demonstrate a variety of skills from running meetings with the Steering Committee, communicating effectively with other officers and moderating events. Nhu feels that she has grown to be more confident and comfortable in public speaking which should prove to be very beneficial throughout her professional career.

"Life can be hectic sometimes, so the key is to learn how to manage your time and weigh your priorities." (Nhu Le)

Nhu Le encourages students to attend every event they can make it to, to be professional (and dress like one), to be fully present and to maximize every available networking opportunity. "It's up to you to build yourself up, so don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone!" (Nhu Le)

So how does she handle it all? Full-time student, president of the Student Auxiliary, member of TXCPA Houston, and an intern?

Per Nhu, the answer is time management, personal drive and a desire for success - and practice! "I've gained time management skills by being a full-time student, working as an intern, and participating in extracurricular activities for multiple years." (Nhu Le)

It is also helpful that many firms are supportive and flexible enough to allow student-interns to participate in TXCPA Houston meetings and events even during busy season.

In her free time, Nhu loves traveling and painting. She travels to observe the beauty of nature and paints to enjoy the beauty of art.

---

Michael J. Barber is a former school administrator and classroom educator. After spending over two decades in public and private education, Michael has migrated to the continuing professional education coordinator at TXCPA Houston.



Left: Ed Roth, CFA, CPA, CFP®, CEBS • Charlotte M. Jungen, CPA, CFP® • Wade D. Egmon, CPA, CFP® • Steven R. Goodman, CPA, CFP® • Chris A. Matlock, CPA, CFA

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# Chapter News

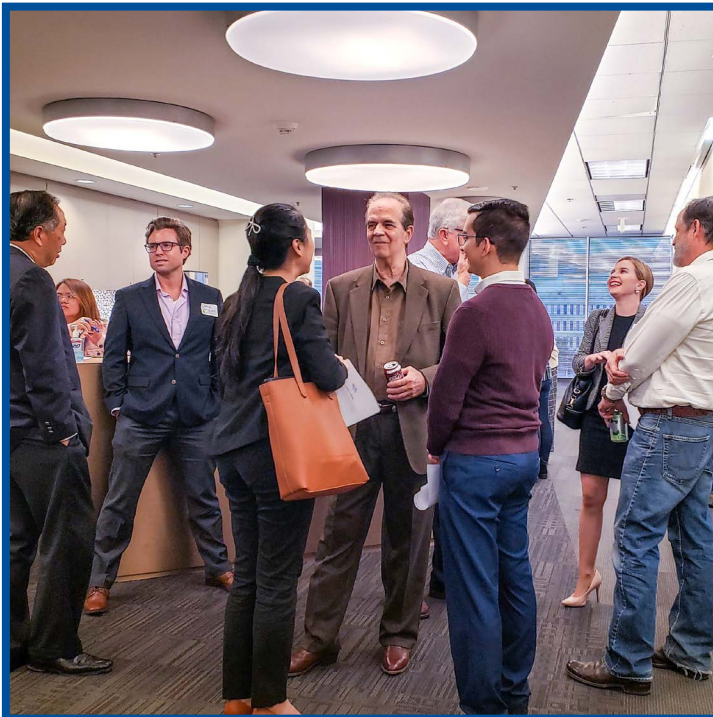
## STUDENT AUXILIARY

### Account Me Out

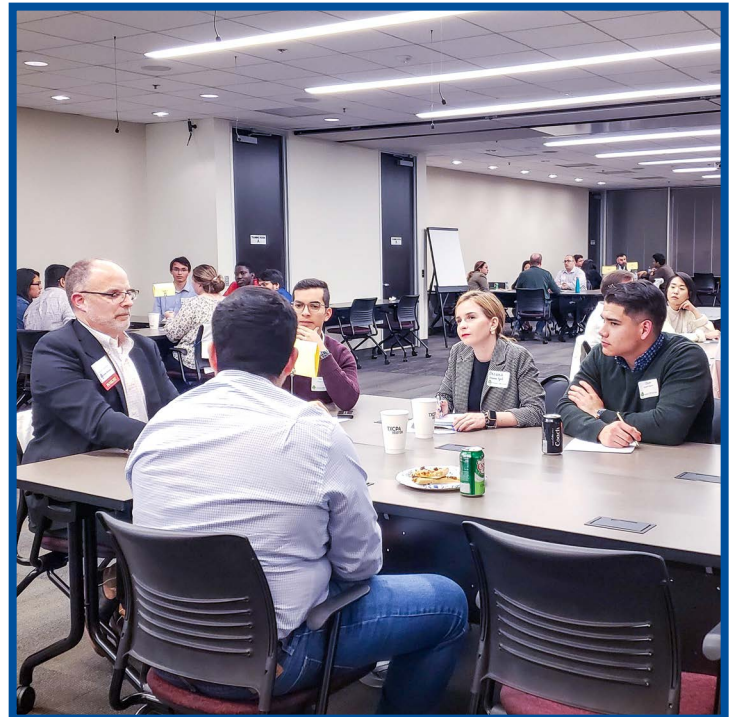
On Friday, February 28 at the TXCPA Houston Student Auxiliary held their "Account Me Out - Alternative Careers" event. Seasoned panelists including Shehan Chandrasekera, Steve Goodman, Mark Lee, Stephen King, Barry Eugene Wilken, and more shared their insights on alternative careers to public accounting to over 50 student members and CPA candidates.



Thank you to everyone who joined us and to our esteemed panelists for their time.



Students from UHD, UH Bauer, HBU, HCC, St. Thomas and other local universities networked with peers and CPAs



Student Auxiliary events offer accounting students and CPA candidates opportunities to connect with seasoned CPAs and financial industry thought leaders.



# Chapter News

## CPAs HELPING SCHOOLS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION RECEPTION



Representatives from the TXCPA Houston awarded \$26,533 in grant funding to eight schools as part of the CPAs Helping Schools program during the Partners in Education Reception on Tuesday, January 21.

Laura Mardis, chair of the CPAs Helping Schools committee, and Carol Spencer, TXCPA Houston membership manager, presented grants to the following schools: Parker Elementary, Brookline Elementary and Bellaire High School from Houston ISD; Kenneth D. Black Elementary from Aldine ISD; Sweeny Elementary from Sweeny ISD; and Spring Branch ISD Community Relations.



Black Elementary, Hillary Volkmann, received a TXCPA HOUSTON CPAs Helping Schools grant creating a bilingual STEAM resource for the library and lab.



Beta Academy received a TXCPA HOUSTON CPAs Helping Schools grant for their music program which helps improve students' math skills.

# Chapter News

## NETWORKING AND BUILDING CONNECTIONS

TXCPA Houston hosts various networking events to help members connect and build professional relationships. Through our Morning Buzz meetups, Member Happy Hours, and Young Professionals events, we empower our members to build a stronger CPA presence in our community and bring awareness of the value of our profession. Visit [www.houstoncpa.org](http://www.houstoncpa.org) for our next member event!

### Morning Buzz



On February 20, members met at Morning Buzz at Cavo Coffee for networking before heading into work. We were excited to see a large attendance in first time attendees and new members!



### Young Professionals Happy Hour

On March 5, TXCPA Houston Young Professionals met at Hugh O'Connors Irish Bar for happy hour! Several new members and guests came out for a bit of networking and cheer!



# Chapter News

## ONLINE CLASSES

Register at <https://www.tscpa.org/education/cpe>

## FREE ETHICS FOR MEMBERS

Your TXCPA membership includes a free on-demand ethics course to help you meet your licensing requirement. Meet your 4-hour ethics requirement with this state board-approved course.

Access your free course at <https://www.tscpa.org/education/ethics-cpe-for-texas-cpas>.

## CONFERENCE WEBCAST

Many of our upcoming popular in-person conferences are now being offered as webcasts, giving you live access to informative sessions and expert presenters during this time of social distancing.

Register for TXCPA online conferences at <https://www.tscpa.org/education/cpe>.

May 7-8 - Technology Conference | CPE hours: 16

May 11-12 - Energy Conference | CPE hours: 18

May 15 - Audits of Employee Benefit Plans Conference | CPE hours: 8

**Questions? Call TXCPA at 800-428-0272 option 1.**

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# Chapter News - Upcoming Conferences

Mark your calendars for these upcoming conferences. Register at [www.houstoncpa.org](http://www.houstoncpa.org).

## Spring Accounting Expo

Spring 2020 - Webcast

Network at our largest two-day event designed for members in business and industry with approximately 700 local CPAs.

## CPE by the Sea

June 17-19, 2020 - Galveston Convention Center

At our three-day conference network with top CPAs, gain valuable information covering all professional areas of interest and enjoy the Galveston attractions.

## Financial Reporting Symposium

Late July - The Post Oak Hotel

Attendees receive relevant information and perspectives on current accounting, auditing, and financial reporting issues from a panel of nationally known professionals.

## Energy Conference

August 26, 2020 - Omni West Houston

Seasoned energy professionals and executives address the significant current issues affecting the energy industries as well as the accounting processes.

## CFO/Controllers Conference

September 17, 2020 - Houston Marriott Sugar Land

A one-day conference caters to the financial leaders of small to mid-size companies.

## Medicare Workshop/ Personal Financial Planning Conference

October 26-27, 2020 - TXCPA Houston Training Facility

This two-day event provides participants valuable knowledge for better financial decisions in every financial stage of life.



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# Member News

## GOODMAN FINANCIAL PROMOTES NEW CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Goodman Financial is pleased to announce the promotion of Charlotte Jungen to Chief Operating Officer. In this position, Charlotte will take on many of the responsibilities previously held by the firm's President, including overseeing the firm's day-to-day operations. Charlotte joined GFC in 2013 as a Client Service Manager and has over 20 years of experience in investment management, financial planning and consulting, estate planning, tax planning and preparation, and insurance analysis and consulting.

Charlotte is a proud graduate of Lamar University and is involved with Lamar in various capacities, including serving on their College of Business Advisory Board. She is also an active participant in TXCPA Houston and TXCPA.



Charlotte M. Jungen, CPA, CFP®  
Chief Operating Officer  
Goodman Financial Corporation

## GOODMAN FINANCIAL PROMOTES NEW DIRECTOR

Goodman Financial is pleased to announce the promotion of Wade Egmon to Director of Financial Advisory Services. In this position, Wade is responsible for leading the Financial Advisory activities at the firm while also continuing to meet with clients to discuss their financial plans and investment portfolios. Wade joined GFC in 2009 as a Client Service Manager and has over 12 years of experience in investment management, financial planning and consulting, estate planning, tax planning, and insurance analysis and consulting. Additionally, Wade has six years of Big Four and small-firm tax experience, specializing in tax compliance and planning for high net worth individuals.

Wade is a proud graduate of Texas Lutheran University and UT Austin. He is very active in TXCPA Houston and also enjoys camping and backpacking with his kids and playing in his church band at St. Andrews Episcopal in Pearland.



Wade D. Egmon, CPA, CFP®  
Director of Financial Advisory Services  
Goodman Financial Corporation

Please help us congratulate Charlotte Jungen, CPA, CFP® and Wade Egmon, CPA, CFP® on their promotions!

If you would like to highlight a TXCPA member for outstanding achievement, please email [members@houstoncpa.org](mailto:members@houstoncpa.org).

## Auto-Renew and Skip the Invoice

TXCPA's auto renewal program makes your annual membership process easier than ever before. Check the box on the reverse side of your renewal form or on the online payment screen to enroll in the program. You will receive a confirmation email when your enrollment is complete. Then, each year you can relax knowing that your member dues will be paid automatically. No more risk of putting aside the invoice and finding that you're not enjoying full TXCPA benefits every day!

## Nominate a Member for a TXCPA Award

Do you know of a TXCPA member who has exhibited a strong commitment to the accounting profession? Does someone in your chapter make substantial service contributions to your community? Is the next Young CPA of the Year in your hometown?

Nominate a deserving member for one of TXCPA's service awards today! Categories include Meritorious Service to the Accounting Profession in Texas, Distinguished Public Service, Distinguished Member, Outstanding TXCPA Committee Chairman, Young CPA of the Year and Honorary Member. Nominations accepted online through April 27, 2020.

For more information, contact Holly McCauley (phone 800-428-0272 x 202 / 972-687-8502).

## Leadership Development Institute (LDI)

LDI 2020 is scheduled for June 25-26, before the TXCPA Annual Meeting of Members in Fort Worth. All participants will receive a complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting with their LDI registration. Attendees will complete a one-and-a-half-day training program that culminates with their introduction at the Awards Luncheon on Friday, June 26.

Program information is available on the website and registration is open. Please share details with your staff or colleagues you feel may benefit from attending and those you would like to see fill future leadership roles in our organization and in the profession.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Newlin (phone 800-428-0272 x 662 / 972-687-8662).

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For calendar year 2019, or other tax year beginning , 2019, and ending , 20 .				
<b>Part I</b> 1 Your name <i>Jessie</i> Address <i>26742</i> City, town, or village <i>Mississauga</i> State <i>CA</i> ZIP code <i>92692</i> 2 Your social security number <i>354-79</i>		<b>Part II Individual Income Tax</b> 4 Estimate of total tax liability for 2019 . . . \$ 5 Total 2019 payments . . . . . 6 <b>Balance due.</b> Subtract line 5 from line 4 (see instructions) . . . . . 7 Amount you're paying (see instructions) . . . ▶ 8 Check here if you're "out of the country" and a U.S. citizen or resident (see instructions) . . . . . <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Check here if you file Form 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ and didn't receive wages as an employee subject to U.S. income tax withholding . . . . . <input type="checkbox"/>		
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# Chapter News

## CLASSIFIEDS

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Featured Practices for Sale (gross revenues shown):

- League City Area CPA \$1.8MM
- The Woodlands Area Tax \$1.6MM
- West Houston CPA \$1.1MM
- NW of Houston CPA \$430K
- West Houston CPA \$350K
- SE Texas CPA \$305K
- Houston CPA \$210K

### **Want To Purchase West Houston Tax Practice -**

West Houston CPA firm looking to purchase a west Houston tax practice firm or sole practitioner. Call Al Zientek, CPA at 281-496-6152 x201 or email [azientek@zientek.com](mailto:azientek@zientek.com).

### **Looking to Share Office Space -**

CPA near retirement but not ready to retire is looking to share office space with an equally aged individual with a view to transition into retirement or into other ventures as opportunity brings forth. Current offices in the Galleria area (4900 Woodway Dr. #1200, Houston, TX 77056) are very attractively built-out. In addition, the office building across the street is in the final stages of remodeling and the owner is very aggressive in lowering rent significantly. Call William E. Blummer, CPA at 713-623-2113.

## STAY CONNECTED

### **Update Your TXCPA Member Profile**

TXCPA members can update their information using an online form. Now is the perfect time to check your member profile and be sure we have all of the most accurate contact information on record, as well as your interest areas that help us best serve you. To access the form, go to <http://tscpamemberupdate.tscpa.net>. Your login information will be the same username and password as your member login on tscpa.org. If you don't remember your password, you can use the retrieval link provided on that page or simply call our member services team to have a temporary password set. You can reach us Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Central Time) by calling 800-428-0272 and selecting option 1.

### **Missing Out on TXCPA Houston Emails?**

If you are not receiving TXCPA Houston emails, please check your junk email folder as well as your computer's spam settings. If our official emails are not being received at all, please email us at [chapter@houstoncpa.org](mailto:chapter@houstoncpa.org) using the email address at which you would like to receive communication. We will either investigate the reason or update your information in our records. If you unsubscribed in the past, you will need to re-subscribe to our email and communications list by sending an email to [chapter@houstoncpa.org](mailto:chapter@houstoncpa.org). Please understand that if you unsubscribe to either TXCPA or TXCPA Houston, you will unsubscribe to both as they are the same database.

## Information and opportunities relevant to you!

TXCPA Houston member have a multitude of committees and tasks forces on which they can serve. Please check your top three committee(s) based on interest.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### CPE Related Committees

Quality control and oversight of Society CPE

- \_\_\_\_\_ CFO/ Controllers Conference
- \_\_\_\_\_ CPE by the Sea
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Expo

### Membership Related Committees

Work on Society image enhancement, career awareness and member services

- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Development
- \_\_\_\_\_ Young Professionals

### Industry/Other Committees

Plan topics, serve as on-site coordinators for industry CPE.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Business & Industry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Energy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Healthcare

### Professional Services Committees

Plan topics, serve as on-site coordinators for CPE.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Accounting & Auditing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Forensic & Valuation Services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Financial Planning
- \_\_\_\_\_ Circular 230 Roundtable
- \_\_\_\_\_ Northwest Roundtable

### Charity/Civic Related Committees

Sponsor community and organization events.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Accounting Scholarship Endowment
- \_\_\_\_\_ Accounting Scholarships
- \_\_\_\_\_ CPAs Helping Schools/
- \_\_\_\_\_ Accounting Career Education
- \_\_\_\_\_ CPA-PAC
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public Affairs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Extravaganza

### Thank you for signing up!

Your active participation will provide: current topic updates, professional development, networking opportunities ... and more!

You will be placed on the distribution list for each chosen committee. Committee meeting dates vary from monthly to quarterly. Email this form to [chapter@houstoncpa.org](mailto:chapter@houstoncpa.org).



# LOOKING FOR A NEW OPPORTUNITY?

Visit the TXCPA Houston Career Center to find the job that's right for you!

Employers and recruiters can access the most qualified talent pool with relevant work experience to fulfill staffing needs. Job candidates can access the most successful and rewarding companies to invest their skills and talents in.

**Recruiters:** Target your recruiting and reach qualified candidates quickly and easily.

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